

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

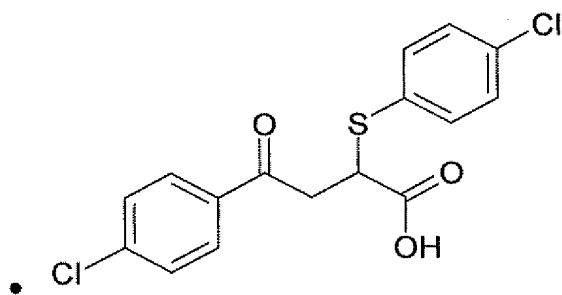
Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for treating diabetes or a complication thereof comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; *or*
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or



or a geometrical or optical isomer thereof,

or a tautomeric form thereof;

or a solvate or hydrate thereof,

or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the risk of hypoglycaemia is reduced.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein non-insulin-dependent diabetes or a complication thereof is treated.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the compound administered is capable of the inhibition of kynurenine 3-hydroxylase.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the compound administered is capable of the inhibition of kynurenine 3-hydroxylase in an *in vitro* test.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein

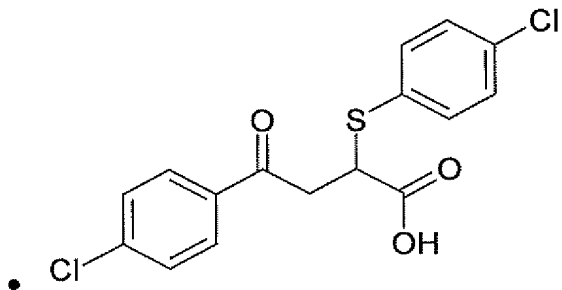
diabetes is treated.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein a complication of diabetes is treated.

34. (Currently Amended) A compound, which is

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; ~~or~~
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or



or a geometrical or optical isomer thereof,

or a tautomeric form thereof;

or a solvate or hydrate thereof,

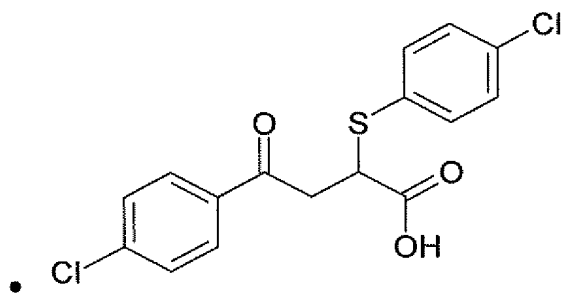
or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug thereof.

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;

- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or



or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein the risk of hypoglycaemia is reduced.

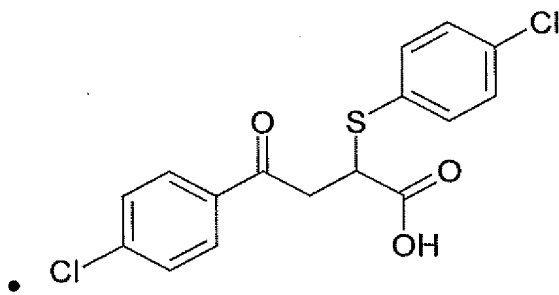
37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein non-insulin-dependent diabetes or a complication thereof is treated.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein diabetes is treated.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein a complication of diabetes is treated.

44. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds

- 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-phenylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- ethyl 2-benzylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-chlorophenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-benzylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-phenylthio-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-fluorophenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methylphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 2-(4'-methoxyphenylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; ~~or~~
- 2-(2'-naphthylthio)-4-(4'-chlorophenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid; or



or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

45. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds

- 2-carboxymethylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;

or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of one of the following compounds

- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- ethyl 2-cyclohexylthio-4-phenyl-4-oxobutanoate; or
- 2-cyclohexylthio-4-(4'-methoxyphenyl)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

or a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.